

TOMB OF AN ASTOR

Where the Remains of the Late William Astor Rest

RICH, PICTURESQUE TRINITY

That Contains the Vault—Lies Beside the Body of His Daughter—John Jacob's Numerous Peculiarities.

Up in picturesque Trinity cemetery, from the gaze of the public and overlooking the Hudson river, is the tomb of William Astor. It is a strange, constructed vault that rises from the hillside like a half-crowned castle, and only the surrounding foliage softens one as to its character. In front of it are the heavily-carved iron pillars which might stand for the portals of this ancient bit of architecture. Beside the body of the late William Astor



THE TOMB OF WILLIAM ASTOR.

was placed Thursday, May 12, after an impressive ceremony in a week proceeding the remains of but one member of the family were placed in the tomb. It is the body of Mrs. Emily Van Allen, the daughter of the late William Astor, and workmen were busily engaged for a week preparing the vault for the reception of the remains of the father, the man whose name the vault bears.

Trinity cemetery is located at One Hundred and Fifty-fifth street and Tenth avenue and is an adjunct of the famous Trinity in the heart of the city. It is as different from that acre of overgrown brush and trees as the apple of time from the fig of the past.



JOHN JACOB ASTOR.

Just as the cemetery is doing the best of its kind, so the tomb is doing the best of its kind. It is a great aggregation of magnificent masonry. Here and there a monument rises or a grave-stone rears its modest head, but the path to the Astor tomb leads by vault after vault, each rising with the other in magnificence, and the names around familiar to those who have read the inscriptions, fast wearing out, in the old churchyard.

Just now the new cemetery is donning its brightest of spring garments. The sky on the great bridge that leads over the boulevard, from one part of the cemetery to the other, is beginning to sprout, and many a tomb is hidden behind the already thick foliage of the artistically arranged trees and shrubbery. Thousands of early flowering



THE ENTRANCE OF THE ASTOR VAULT, MRS. WILLIAM ASTOR, MRS. EMILY WILSON AND MRS. ROBERT.

Flowers are spreading their perfume over all, and the novel varicolored garden surrounds look their prettiest. Among the members of the Astor family who were at the church and at the tomb were Mrs. William Astor, the widow, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Wilson, the father and mother of Mrs. John Jacob Astor, Mr. and Mrs. John Jacob Astor, a Colonel Douglas, who accompanied his mother from Paris to this city, Mrs. Orms Wilson, Mrs. James R. Brewster, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Messrs. Lord, Day, Kissam, Orger and Dr.



JOHN JACOB ASTOR.

Mr. and Mrs. Astor, who were at the church and at the tomb, were accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Wilson, the father and mother of Mrs. John Jacob Astor, Mr. and Mrs. John Jacob Astor, a Colonel Douglas, who accompanied his mother from Paris to this city, Mrs. Orms Wilson, Mrs. James R. Brewster, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Messrs. Lord, Day, Kissam, Orger and Dr.

The arrangements for the Astor funeral, said he, "were simple in the extreme. As at the burial of John Jacob Astor, the ceremony was simply that of the Episcopal church, with Dr. Morgan Dix and his clerical assistants officiating."

"The expense of the funeral of an Astor? Not as heavy as you would imagine."

In the case of John Jacob Astor I don't think they were much over \$5,000. The costliest is the hearse and the casket, covered as it is with the finest of silk, and with finely chased mahogany sides, does not cost over \$200 or \$300. The expense of a richly furnished casket is easily explained. The lining is of the finest silk and the pillars and cushions are of the best quality of silk or satin. Mountings are also expensive. Silver is entirely out of fashion, but the finely prepared and polished brass, now in style, adds much to the expense. Then comes the embalming. That varies according to method. In Paris, where the body of William Astor was



WILLIAM WILSON ASTOR, WILLIAM ASTOR.

embalmed, the expense was undoubtedly very heavy. Here the prices ranged from \$25 to \$50.

"Then come the flowers. At the funeral of Mrs. Augustus Astor the casket was completely covered with wreaths of white blossoms and the cost was fully \$1,000. A similar expense was incurred at the funeral of John Jacob Astor, and the orders for flowers for the obsequies of William Astor will run up as much, if not more."

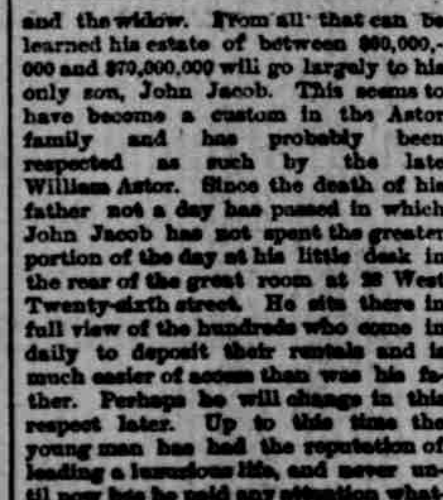
"There is one expense which completes the total as far as the funeral arrangements are concerned. This is the cost of a special detective and police force and the doctored to the men directly under the casket."

"At the other Astor funeral," said Mr. Morgan, "we had a special force of uniformed police and ten detectives. That force was greater than was needed, and we had not as many on hand at this funeral. It is a fact which seems almost beyond belief that an Astor funeral, or in fact the funeral of any rich person, attracts a mass of thieves and burglars. That experience is an old one to us, and we know how to guard against it."

That covers the expense of an Astor funeral, with the exception of the costly gifts and the clergyman. These differ, and only the parties directly concerned know the extent of the family's munificence.

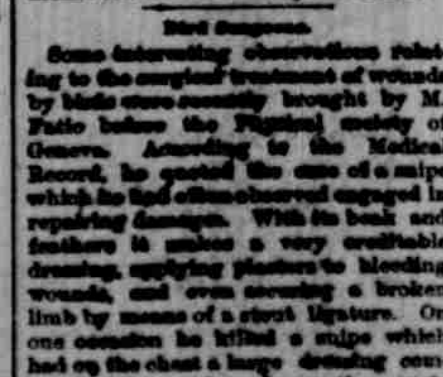
I had occasion on my visit to Trinity cemetery to note the other Astor burial grounds and vaults. The original John Jacob Astor and the bodies of ten or twelve near relatives lie in an underground vault, within a stone's throw of the William Astor tomb. There also lie the remains of the second of the Astors.

The family of the second John Jacob Astor have a plot of ground in the same cemetery, from the center of which rises a fitting monument. John Jacob and his wife, Augusta, lie side by side in finely flowered graves. No vault has yet been erected by this branch of the family.



WILLIAM A. ASTOR, JOHN JACOB ASTOR.

It is not definitely known as yet how great the estate is or in what manner it has been divided among the children and the widow. From all that can be learned his estate of between \$60,000,000 and \$70,000,000 will go largely to his only son, John Jacob. This seems to have become a custom in the Astor family, and has probably been respected as such by the late William Astor. Since the death of his father not a day has passed in which John Jacob has not spent the greater portion of the day at his little desk in the rear of the great room at 28 West Twenty-sixth street. He sits there in full view of the hundreds who come in daily to deposit their rentals and is much easier of access than was his father. Perhaps he will change in this respect later. Up to the time the young man has had the reputation of leading a dissolute life, and never until now has he paid any attention whatever to the Astor business. In this respect I understand that a complete change has come over him; a change as complete as that which came over the late William Astor when his father threatened to cut him off with a million. The young man is acquainting himself with every detail of the vast business and has taken personal charge of all such matters as were usually looked after by the father. In fact his friends say he is showing himself to be a thorough business man, and within ten years those who were inclined to ridicule his sportsome ways will find that he has added heavily to the already immense fortune left him by the father.



JOHN JACOB ASTOR.

Some interesting observations relating to the funeral of William Astor were made recently by M. F. Felt, former member of the Federal House of Representatives. According to the Medical Record, he stated the case of a man who had been observed engaged in repelling danger. With his back and feet he made a very creditable drawing, applying plaster to bleeding wounds, and even securing a broken limb by means of a stout shirt. On one occasion he killed a snake which had on the chest a large drawing composed of down taken from other parts of the body and secured by the wound by the completed blood. Twice he had brought home alive with interwoven feathers attached on the life of fracture of arm or other limb.

Mr. W. Hunter mentions a man-killer who was known to have killed 121 people in three years, and another who had killed some 100 people in the same space of time. A third case was mentioned of a man who had killed 100 people in a year, and a fourth of a man who had killed 100 people in a year, and a fifth of a man who had killed 100 people in a year.

"The expense of the funeral of an Astor? Not as heavy as you would imagine."

FIFTY FOR A KING

Denmark's Ruler to Celebrate His Golden Wedding

WAS FORTUNATE IN MARRIAGE

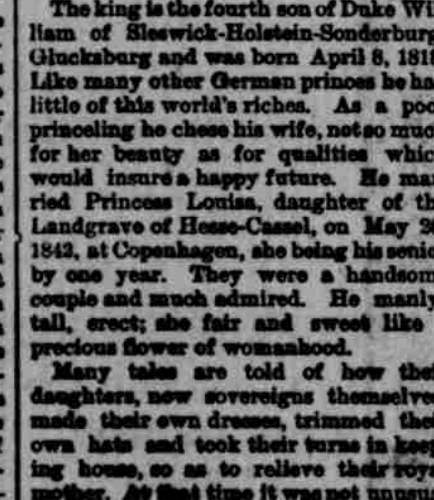
The Princess of Wales, the Empress of Russia and the King of Greece His Children—Christian Is Popular.



ON THE 26th of May the king and queen of Denmark will celebrate their golden wedding. From a political point of view the event is of little importance, but as a family celebration it will command the attention of the world. Americans care little for kings and queens, but brave men and true women are more admired and better appreciated in the United States than in any other part of the world. Under such circumstances I do not much care to write on this particular occasion of Christian IX and Louise, as king and queen of Denmark, and all the Wendes and Goths. They are only very small potentates among the crowned heads of Europe, and their country is not much larger than Ohio and has less inhabitants than that state; but I like to write of their standing as man and wife, as father and mother. As such they are entitled to our highest esteem and have set a shining example to all the world.

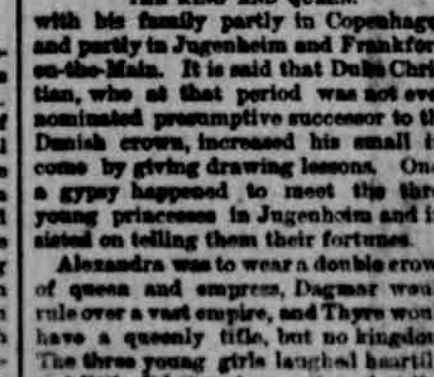
De la Bruyere once said of kings, "Je ne manque rien d'un roi qui la doctrine de la vie privee," which means that kings have everything except the sweetness of family life. In King Christian's case history very emphatically contradicts this utterance of the great French moralist. The king's public life has been one constant trouble ever since he ascended the throne on Nov. 15, 1863. As a matter of fact he has been one of the most tried sovereigns of Europe. The war with Austria and Prussia cost him Slavobolstein and Lauenburg, and he has been in chronic fond with his parliament, and ministerial crises seem perennial in the little kingdom. He defies democratic ideas, but his subjects adhere to them and consequently as a ruler they do not love him. As man and father, however, they adore him. The popular ditty of which the refrain runs, "It is a fine family, that of King Christian," had no derisive meaning when the populace sang it beneath the royal windows on a raw November evening in 1868.

As husband and wife the royal Danish couple are among those fortunate parents whose children are a credit and honor to them, settling in life and adorning exalted positions with a grace and dignity which would be recognized even in a republic, where honesty, frugality, temperance and virtue are regarded as the qualities which best a noble character. As parents the Danish sovereigns have been blessed with all the children that heaven can bestow on mortal beings. The king is the fourth son of Duke William of Sleswick-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg and was born April 8, 1818. Like many other German princes he had little of this world's riches. As a poor princeling he chose his wife, not so much for her beauty as for qualities which would insure a happy future. He married Princess Louise, daughter of the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel, on May 26, 1842, at Copenhagen, she being his senior by one year. They were a handsome couple and much admired. He manly, tall, erect; she fair and sweet like a precious flower of womanhood.



THE KING AND QUEEN.

Many tales are told of how their daughters, now sovereigns themselves, have been their own dress, trimmed their own hair and took their turns in keeping house, so as to relieve their royal mother. At that time it was not unusual to see them driving out all equipped in one carriage—father, mother and six children. The king was then a superior officer in the Danish army, and lived with his family partly in Copenhagen and partly in Jægersbo and Frankfurt-on-the-Main. It is said that Duke Christian, who at that period was not even nominated presumptive successor to the Danish crown, increased his small income by giving drawing lessons. Once a gypsy happened to meet the three young princesses in Jægersbo and insisted on telling them their fortunes.



THE KING AND QUEEN.

Alexandra was to wear a double crown of queen and empress, Dagmar would rule over a vast empire, and Thyra would have a queenly title, but no kingdom. The three young girls laughed heartily, and little did they dream then that that gypsy told the truth. Today they know that she did, and none of the sisters has ever forgotten this strange incident in their lives. Through the house of Duke Christian was devoid of luxury and splendor, yet a happier household was not to be found all over Europe. How happy in fact the family life of the royal couple must have been is proved by the numerous children by all the children.

King Christian and Queen Louise have thirty-six grandchildren, all of whom look longingly forward for the approach of the annual visit to their grandparents. These the given up and

little ones enjoy a life of unlimited freedom, and it is refreshing to behold how well all these English, Russian, Greek and Danish cousins harmonize. The queen is not only a sovereign, but also a queen among women. Indeed King Christian was a fortunate man when he conquered the love of so noble and good a bride. Though she is seventy-five years old now, she does not look more than fifty-six. She is still handsome, and with regard to brightness, good judgment and gifted nature few women, if any, can excel her. But more precious than all these qualities and a greater treasure than the crown she wears is her heart of gold. If any woman is beloved in Denmark it is she. Her graciousness of manner and her kindly looks win the hearts of all.

Few ladies in private life are as active as this queen. She rises early and attends to almost everything personally in her household. Her day is occupied from morning until night. Besides, she keeps up an extensive correspondence with her three eldest daughters and her son, King George of Greece. "No one can write nicer letters than mamma," says her royal highness the Princess of Wales.

Her leisure hours the queen devotes to music and painting, and she does much to encourage these arts. She prefers painting to music, however, and is herself an artist of no mean ability. Many a poor village church possesses an altar piece painted for it by her. Though she has a thorough understanding of music, her deafness somewhat interferes with her enjoyment of musical sounds, a weakness which unfortunately also affects the Princesses of Wales.

Foreign artists are always welcome in Copenhagen—the Venice of the north.



DAGMAR, ALEXANDRA, WILHELM, KING GEORGE.

as it is called abroad. Both king and queen seldom miss a concert or a "premiere."

During summer the court of Denmark offers a sight probably the most unique in the world. Bornstorf is the name of the royal summer residence. It is situated a couple of miles from Copenhagen and near to the deer park Dyrehaven, of which all Danes are very proud. The queen is especially fond of staying there, but when all the children and grandchildren come visiting, Bornstorf is too small and the court moves to Fredensborg, near Elsinore, the spot to which cling so many associations of the ill-fated Prince Hamlet.

The castle was built a century and a half ago by Frederick IV on the shores of Lake Esrom in commemoration of the peace between Denmark and Sweden. At this idyllic spot even the czar and the czarinas are able to forget their anxieties. When Fredensborg is filled with visitors, excursions to Copenhagen are frequent, and the harbor of the Danes beat high when they see the empress of all the Russias, walking quietly about the streets shopping. The emperor of Russia prefers the country, and being more of a sportsman, like his royal father-in-law, both ride, walk and shoot frequently together.

One of the greatest delights of the king is to play with his little grandchildren, and he can often be seen seated in a cramped up position in a diminutive pony carriage trusting himself to the care of a very youthful coachman. After dinner Queen Louise will generally induce her daughters to join her at the dining table, and they have played eight hands on two pianos.

Beliquette and economy are banished and the family leads the pleasant life of grand seigneurs seeking relaxation from worldly obligations. Early in January the court moves into Copenhagen, and from that time begins the season at the capital, which lasts until the 8th of April, the king's birthday. During this time the king can often be seen walking in the streets with not other attendants than two collie dogs, one of which is a present from Queen Victoria. In the evening when there are no court receptions the king and queen visit the opera or a concert.

LIVOR. F. DE THUMMEL CLOVE.

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